

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 and 29-69 are pending. Applicants acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 26, 28, and 41 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. (Office Action at 6.)

Applicants note further that the Office Action did not include any rejection of claim 25, other than that it was dependent on a rejected claim. Accordingly, Applicants understand that claim 25 would also be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview with their undersigned representative on June 30, 2003, and for confirming that claim 25 would also be allowable.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 54-57, 60, 63, 64, 66, and 67 (all the original independent claims) have been amended to include language of original claim 28. Claims 25, 26, 29, and 64 have also been amended with minor formal changes that do not narrow their scope. Claim 69, has been added. Claim 69 corresponds to the subject matter of allowable claim 41, in independent format. Claim 28 has been cancelled. Thus, claims 1-27 and 29-69 are currently pending. No new matter has been added.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-68 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) or objected to as being dependent on claims rejected on this ground. (Office Action at 2-6.) Without acquiescing to any of the outstanding rejections or objections, claims 1, 2, 54-57, 60, 63, 64, 66, and 67 (all the original independent claims) have been amended to include

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Application No. 09/964,778
Attorney Docket No. 07414.0036

the language of claim 28. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections and objections are moot.

III. Supplemental PTO-892 and Information Disclosure Statement

As discussed in the telephonic interview of June 30, 2003, U.S. Patent No. 5,534,368 to Petersen ("Petersen") was relied upon by the Examiner (e.g., Office Action at 4), but did not appear to be of record according to Applicant's PTO-1449 or the Examiner's PTO-892. The Examiner asked that this omission be noted, and stated that she would make it of record in a Supplemental PTO-892.

Applicants acknowledge receipt with the June 24, 2003, Office Action of the Examiner's initialed copy of their PTO-1449 filed on March 6, 2002. Applicants also note that a second IDS and PTO-1449 were filed on March 7, 2003. A copy of a receipt stamped postcard is enclosed. However, a signed copy of the second PTO-1449 has not been received. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the March 7, 2003, PTO-1449, a duplicate of which is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

IV. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

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
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge
any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 24, 2003

By: 
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